

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02

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EB/FSE:GBENNSKY

EUR/NE:JOWENS

EB/MA:JSTEINMETS

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R 021544Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, NO

SUBJECT: MINISTER EVENSEN MEETING WITH SECRETARY DENT

1. MINISTER JENS EVENSEN AND PARTY CALLED ON SECRETARY DENT DECEMBER 19. ALSO PRESENT WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DOBBIN AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS BLACKWELL.

2. MINISTER EVENSEN DISCUSSED THREE SUBJECTS AT
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MEETING: (1) EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM IN GENERAL,

(2) SHORTAGE OF BUNKER FUEL, (3) POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MARITIME AREA.

3. MINISTER EVENSEN BEGAN BY SUMMARIZING NORWEGIAN FUEL SHORTAGE AND STEPS BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION BY APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT. HE NOTED A GASOLINE RATIONING PROGRAM WOULD BE INSTITUTED JANUARY 8 AND DETAILED THE SYSTEM TO BE USED. FELT ENTIRE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED BY DOMESTIC MEASURES ALONE. SECRETARY DENT OUTLINED CURRENT U.S. PROGRAM OF ENERGY CONSERVATION, NOTING DECISION ON GASOLINE RATIONING WOULD BE MADE SOON.

4. SECRE*ARY DENT THEN REVIEWED U.S. POSITION ON BUNKER FUEL ALLOCATION, NOTING THAT IT WAS NON-DISCRIMINATORY AS TO FLAG AND THAT SHIPS IN FOREIGN COMMERCE WOULD RECEIVE 100 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENTS. PASSENGER AND DIESEL VESSELS SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT REGULATIONS. NON-DISCRIMINATION ASPECT SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN SOME CASES IF NEEDED TO GUARANTEE SAME TREATMENT BY OTHER NATIONS OF VESSELS ENGAGED PRIMQRIY IN COMMERCE WITH U.S. MINISTER EVENSEN STATED NORWEGIAN POLICY REGARDING BUNKER FUEL IS SAME AS U.S. AS TO NON-DISCRIMINATION AND PRIORITY ALLOCATION OF FUEL TO SHIPPING.

5. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED SPEED REDUCTIONS OF SHIPS AS A CONSERVATION MEASURE AND THE EFFECT OF SUCH A PROGRAM ON TIME CHARTERS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL OUTLINED PRESENT FUEL CONSERVATION PROGRAM BY U.S. FLEET AND EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN COMPANIES TO INCREASE EFFICIENT FUEL USE. NOTED TIME CHARTERS NOT EXTENSIVELY USED BY U.S. FLEET. MINISTER FELT A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAJOR SHIPPING NATIONS AS TO SPEED REDUCTION AND TIME CHARTER PROBLEMS COULD BE BENEFICIAL.

6. MINISTER MENTIONED THAT OECD OIL COMMITTEE WAS MEETING THAT DAY TO CONSIDER SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY DENT'S QUESTION AS TO MINISTER'S VIEW ON BEST FORUM IN WHICH TO CONSIDER

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MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY PROBLEMS, MINISTER SAID HE FELT NORWAY WILLING TO PARTICIPATE EITHER IN EXISTING BODIES OR IN A NEW GROUP CREATED FOR THAT PURPOSE. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS IN AN ESTABLISHED FORUM SUCH AS OECD COUNCIL PERHAPS OFFERS BETTER CHANCES OF SUCCESS. CONCLUDED BY STRESSING URGENCY OF PROBLEM AND NEED FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

7. SECRETARY AGREED ENTIRE PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HAS URGENT PRIORITY AND WOULD BE DISCUSSED PROMPTLY WITHIN USG.

GDS. RUSH

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